

Blood-Stream Infection (CDC)

From: Penny Williams [consultpenny@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 10:38 PM
To: Blood-Stream Infection (CDC)
Subject: comment on draft guidelines

December 2, 2009

To whom it May Concern;

My name is Penny Williams. I am an RN and have been involved in infusion therapy for more than 30 years.

In response to your request for public comment for the currently propped Draft Guidelines for the Prevention of intravascular Catheter Related Infections, I would like to offer my thoughts on two points.

Needleless Intravascular Catheter Systems

Recommendations:

4. " Minimize contamination risk by wiping the access port with an appropriate antiseptic (chlorhexidine preferred) and accessing the port only with sterile devices."

There is insufficient scientific evidence to support the "preferred" recommendation to use chlorhexidine to disinfect access ports.

Isopropyl alcohol is widely used and known to be an effective disinfectant for synthetic surfaces .

1. Harnage JAVA paper
2. Kaler JAVA paper.

I think the draft guidelines should be changed so that the final document contains no reference to the preferred status of chlorhexidine as the preferred antiseptic to cleanse the access port.

Skin Preparation

Recommendations:

1. "Prepare clean skin with 70% alcohol before peripheral venous catheter insertion."

Since Chlorhexidine is the preferred skin antiseptic, why is it not recommended for skin asepsis prior to starting a peripheral IV? This is confusing to clinicians, creates two standards of care and minimizes the potential risk of infections caused by peripheral IV's and this risk is real.

I think the draft guidelines should be changed to recommend Chlorhexidine skin prep prior to initiating any IV insertion.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,

Penny Williams, RN,CRNI,MS